



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,032	03/08/2001	Randolph E. Crutchfield	INTL-0534-US (PI0839)	2812

7590 01/24/2005
Timothy N. Trop,
TROP, PRUMER & HU, P.C.,
8554 KATY FWY STE 100
HOUSTON, TX 77024-1805

EXAMINER

PAUMEN, GARY F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/802,032		CRUTCHFIELD, RANDOLPH E.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Gary F Paumen		2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2005 and 01 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 29 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2833

Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said system" lacks proper antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 18, 21, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stein 5628055.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8 and 10: Stein (Figure 11) discloses connector 54, power cable 254, processor-based device (the laptop computer), component 51, component access door 280 having opening 273 through which cable (connector) 252A passes when door is closed (and thus component 51 is blocked). For claim 10, the system is the AC/DC power 250; the laptop computer has a battery, component 51 can't be removed when the battery (via connector 204, module 131, component 51, and cable 254) is connected to the system.

Claims 11-15, 18, 21, 22 and 25: Stein discloses housing 200, swappable component 131, cable 254, pivotable access door 280, connector 54. Electrical access to the battery is provided via connector 204 and the door.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2833

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein in view of the admitted prior art (instant Background, page 1).

Stein substantially discloses the claimed invention except for an external memory card. The Background discloses that external memory cards are commonly used with processor-based devices, and to provide the laptop computer of Stein with such an external memory card thus would have been obvious, to increase memory capacity. It would have been obvious to block access to the card by placing the computer next to a wall, to avoid inadvertent damage to the card from passersby.

Claims 6, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein.

It would have been obvious to block access to the connector by placing the computer next to a wall, to avoid access thereto by small children. To use the system of Stein in a digital camera would have been obvious since digital cameras also need secure access to AC/DC power. To form connector 54 as a USB jack would have been obvious since this type of jack is widely used in laptop computers.

Claims 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Stein does not disclose an extension on the door for blocking access to the

Art Unit: 2833

connector; nor the battery being positioned so that the component cannot be removed unless the battery is also removed.

The other references cited on Form 892 disclose similar access prevention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary F Paumen whose telephone number is 571-272-2013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gfp



Gary F. Paumen
Examiner